in issue and that they may be incorporated into the regular training programmes conducted by the Ministry of Railways for their functionaries from time to time.

(VI) The Railway Ministry may from State level co-ordination committees with representatives of RPF and GRP in order to periodically review the progress of implementation of the measures taken for the safety of women passengers.

(c) Action is being taken to implement the suggestions.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir. Action taken report is under process.

Railway Employees' Unions

1426. SHRI LALITBHAIMEHTA:

SHRIMATISAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of employees' unions functioning on Indian Railways, alongwith the names and the status regarding recognition of each of them as on 31st December, 2001;

(b) whether Bhartiya Railway Mazdoor Sangh has been recognized by the Indian Railways;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether representation to recognize Bhartiya Railway Mazdoor Sangh has been received by the Indian Railways; and

(e) if so, when and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Weak Rail Bridges in Kerala

1427. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted a study to ascertain and identify the weak rail bridges in Kerala;

(b) if so, how many bridges have been identified in the State which require urgent reconstruction;

(c) whether Government plan to reconstruct the same; if so, by when the reconstruction is likely to be undertaken;

(d) whether the State Government has requested to extend assistance from the Railway Safety Fund for reconstruction of dilapidated rail bridges; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Railway Bridges are inspected every year to assess their condition and maintenance needs. This is followed by action required to enable safety. Bridges showing signs of distress like cracks etc. are classified as distressed bridges and after more detailed inspection planned for replacement or major repairs. Presently, 2 Railway bridges in Kerala are classified as distressed and are planned to be taken up for replacement/rehabilitation in 2002-03 and work is expected to be completed by 2004-05.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Alternate Rail Connection to Andhra Pradesh

1428. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have sought an alternate route, to connect Andhra Pradesh with North India;

(b) whether the existing route between Delhi and Andhra Pradesh *via* Nagpur involves delays and bad rail track;

(c) if so, the details of the new route proposed to reduce travel time between Delhi and Andhra Pradesh;

(d) the proposed cost of such a new route; and

(e) what distance it would entail?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.